WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A recombinant DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence: Asp-Ser-Val-Cys-Pro-Gln-Gly-Lys-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Gln-X-Asn-Ser (SEQ ID NO:1) wherein X is an unidentified amino acid residue, and said polypeptide has the ability to interact with TNF in such a manner as to:

(a) inhibit the binding of TNF to a TNF receptor; and

(b) inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF.

2. A DNA molecule in accordance with claim 1, wherein the DNA molecule is genomic DNA or cDNA.

3. A recombinant DNA molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence: Asp-Ser-Val-Cys-Pro-Gln-Gly-Lys-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Gln-X-Asn-Ser (SEQ ID NO:1)
wherein X is an unidentified amino acid residue and said polypeptide has the ability to interact with TNF in such a manner as to inhibit the binding of TNF to a TNF receptor and to inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF, or

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a fragment of said polypeptide, wherein said fragment has the ability to interact with TNF in such a manner as to inhibit the binding

of TNF to a TNF receptor and to inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF.

4. An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule in accordance with claim 1

5. An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule in accordance with claim 3.

6. A host cell comprising an expression vector in accordance with claim 4.

7. A host cell comprising an expression vector in accordance with claim 7.

8. A method of producing a polypeptide capable of interacting with TNF, comprising culturing a host cell in accordance with claim 6 and recovering the polypeptide produced thereby which is capable of interacting with TNF.

9. A method of producing a polypeptide capable of interacting with TNF, comprising culturing a host cell in accordance with claim 7 and recovering the polypeptide produced thereby which is capable of interacting with TNF.